



# CHILMARK

## Dukes County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Chilmark is a small rural community located toward the western end of the island of Martha's Vineyard. Most of its 10,639 acres are devoted to residential and agricultural use. The center of town houses a small elementary schoolhouse, originally a one-room school built circa 1850 and still in use for younger grades, a public library, originally a house built in 1790, a town hall built circa 1897, and a handsome church built in 1843. These buildings have all had additions during recent years. Within Chilmark is a fishing village named Menemsha. During the spring, summer and fall, fishing vessels come in with their catches and fresh seafood can be purchased there. The harbor, in addition to a commercial pier where fishing vessels tie up, has a small yacht marina that is extremely popular during the summer months. Menemsha is also the home of a Coast Guard Station. Chilmark is particularly welcoming in the fall of the year. The busy tourist season is over, the weather is beautiful and the rolling hills, woodlands and lovely panoramic ocean views make the town an extraordinary place to visit.

(Narrative supplied by community)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Located on Martha's Vineyard, an island 20 miles long and 10 miles wide situated five miles south of the southwest tip of Cape Cod. Chilmark is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the north, northeast, and south; West Tisbury on the west; and Gay Head on the southeast.

**Total Area:** 34.70 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 19.14 sq. miles

**Population:** 650

**Density:** 34 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Edgartown Station)

Normal temperature in January.....29.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....45.3"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Squibnocket, Tisbury Great Pond, Naushon Island, Vineyard Haven

## Regional Planning Agency

Martha's Vineyard

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 645-2651

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1694

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	501		
Democrats	160	31.9	%
Republicans	77	15.4	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	264	52.7	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Chilmark town, Dukes County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	843	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	843	100.0
Male.....	413	49.0	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	7	0.8
Female.....	430	51.0	Mexican.....	1	0.1
Under 5 years.....	39	4.6	Puerto Rican.....	-	-
5 to 9 years.....	43	5.1	Cuban.....	2	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	62	7.4	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	4	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	38	4.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	836	99.2
20 to 24 years.....	27	3.2	White alone.....	818	97.0
25 to 34 years.....	71	8.4	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	129	15.3	Total population.....	843	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	170	20.2	In households.....	843	100.0
55 to 59 years.....	67	7.9	Householder.....	382	45.3
60 to 64 years.....	39	4.6	Spouse.....	200	23.7
65 to 74 years.....	86	10.2	Child.....	194	23.0
75 to 84 years.....	50	5.9	Own child under 18 years.....	167	19.8
85 years and over.....	22	2.6	Other relatives.....	14	1.7
Median age (years).....	45.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	4	0.5
18 years and over.....	668	79.2	Nonrelatives.....	53	6.3
Male.....	318	37.7	Unmarried partner.....	25	3.0
Female.....	350	41.5	In group quarters.....	-	-
21 years and over.....	657	77.9	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	183	21.7	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	158	18.7	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	76	9.0	Total households.....	382	100.0
Female.....	82	9.7	Family households (families).....	238	62.3
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	98	25.7
One race.....	837	99.3	Married-couple family.....	200	52.4
White.....	824	97.7	With own children under 18 years.....	74	19.4
Black or African American.....	3	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	26	6.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	1	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	17	4.5
Asian.....	3	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	144	37.7
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	113	29.6
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	35	9.2
Filipino.....	-	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	103	27.0
Japanese.....	-	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	110	28.8
Korean.....	2	0.2	Average household size.....	2.21	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	2.71	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	-	-	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	1,409	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	382	27.1
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	1,027	72.9
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	1,003	71.2
Some other race.....	6	0.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	2.4	(X)
Two or more races.....	6	0.7	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	1.0	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	382	100.0
White.....	828	98.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	287	75.1
Black or African American.....	6	0.7	Renter-occupied housing units.....	95	24.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	5	0.6	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.30	(X)
Asian.....	3	0.4	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.93	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	10	1.2			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



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# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Chilmark is located on Martha's Vineyard. Ferry service is the vital link to and from the Island. The Wood's Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority provides year-round ferry service.

### Major Highways

The principal highways are State Road, South Road, and the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road.

### Rail

There is no freight or passenger rail service on Martha's Vineyard.

### Bus

Chilmark is a member of the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (MVTA). The MVTA provides paratransit services to the elderly and disabled, primarily through Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands, Inc. Island Transport provides fixed route bus service to other towns on the island during the tourist season. Taxicabs are an integral part of the Island's public transportation system.

### Other

The Martha's Vineyard Airport is a Primary Commercial Service (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service. It has a 3,297'x 150' asphalt runway and a 5,499'x 150' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision. Also accessible is the Katama Airpark, a privately owned public use facility in Edgartown.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.